

REMARKS

It is noted that examination of the application has now been assigned to a different Examiner than the Examiner who performed the search and issued the prior Office Actions.

An Information Disclosure Statement accompanies this submission. These references were cited in a Written Opinion of the Examiner in a corresponding PCT application. McGarry shows a cellular network for reading totals from vending machines and for downloading new software code. There is no cooperation between the vending machines. This is believed to be cumulative of Amos. The other new reference cited is Helbling which shows a central computer station 12 (a server) communicating to remote devices through an RF network. None of the reference cited show a wireless local network of machines cooperating to form a local system for cash handling functions including both notes and coins and making the use of a network server unnecessary.

In the most recent Office Action of August 31, 2004, claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, because it was said that there was no antecedent basis for the expression "a second cash handling machine." It is apparent that it should have read "a second cash handling device." The appropriate one-word amendment has been made in claim 15.

The Examiner says that the phrase "operating without servers," following "for locally distributed wireless networks" does not positively recite a wireless network.

First, it is clear that these phrases are part of a longer phrase "according to a network standard for locally distributed wireless networks operating without servers."

Second, as far as the claim not "positively reciting" a wireless network, the claim has now been amended to claim that the first cash handling device and the second cash handling device have respective circuits for communicating through a first wireless communication network operating according to a

network standard for locally distributed wireless networks operating without servers.

The Office Action seems to assert that this network standard and circuits for carrying it out are found in Amos as or Watanabe.

Applicant respectfully and strongly disagrees that networks according to this standard or circuits for carrying out such communication are found in Amos or Watanabe. Watanabe does not disclose any network. Watanabe was cited as simply as a machine that handles both notes and coins, which the present claim 15 has distinguished from by having one device handling notes only and one device handling coins only.

Amos discloses ATM or ATM-like machines that communicate over an Internet, a satellite communications network or telephone network. Below is a copy of Fig. 2 of the present invention with an "X" denoting part of the improvement of the present invention in eliminating the Internet, the satellite communications network or the telephone network.

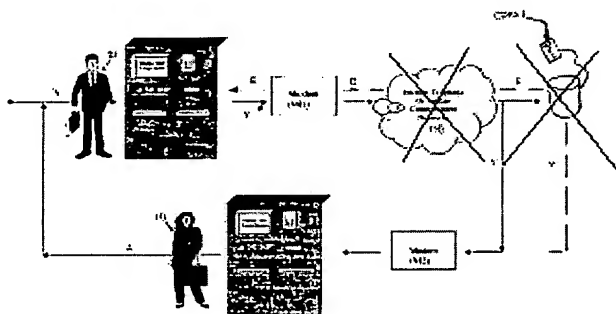


Fig. 2 of Amos (annotated)

Although networks as seen in Amos are sometimes characterized as wireless, they are only in part wireless and in part they are wired networks using large servers to control the network. The two machines are cooperating to form some larger system, they are two machines that perform that same functions at different locations. The present invention eliminates the items in Amos shown with "X's" above. In addition, the Amos machines handle both coins and notes are

primarily for interfacing with consumers to accept money and dispense money and credit bank accounts.

The present invention is directed more to employees of financial and retail establishment and provides a wireless networked system in a localized area in which the components of the systems have different functions.

The Examiner rejected claims 5-7, 17 and 18 as unpatentable over Amos, as modified by Watanabe, and further in view of Richardson. Richardson is cited to show a short range IR or bluetooth network operating between a computer CPU and a detachable computer screen.

The other art cited in the Office action against the claims such as Erekson, US Pat. No. 6,622,018, Richardson, U.S. Pat. No. 6,028,764, and Smarttrust, WO 00/56105, disclose the general availability of wireless networking systems, including remote displays, but does not suggest how to apply these systems to cash management in the financial industry. Traditionally, this cash settlement has been carried out with personal computers and other stand-alone devices, some of which have not been networked.

Assuming that the art teaches the desirability of incorporating Blue Tooth networks in computer peripherals, it is not believed to be obvious to incorporate this interface in a plurality of cash handling machines having different cash handling functions and providing a cooperative cash management system in which the totals for notes and coins, respectively, might be collected from different machines within a short range of each other and displayed on one machine or on a specialized display as now claimed in claim 15.

Claim 15 now recites that the first cash handling device and the second cash handling device provide a cooperative cash management system in which the totals for notes and coins, respectively, are brought together through wireless communication from these respective devices within a range of no more than 100 meters from each other and are displayed on at least one of the first cash handling device, the second cash handling device or a third device operating as a visual

display no more than 100 meters from one of the first the first cash handling device and the second cash handling device.

Support for the new limitations of claim 15 is provided by paragraph [0023] and [0016].

The closest art is Hasegawa, but this showed a plurality of gaming machines (coin only) that were reporting back to a central computer. Typically, the functions of the cash settlement systems herein have been incorporated in very large machines. Indeed, the ATM machines of Amos are very large and prior cash settlement machines in gaming operations have been large. Merely showing a computer component with a wireless connection does not suggest a local distributed wireless set of devices for cash handling of both notes and coins with associated I/O devices.

Traditionally, cash settlement has been carried out with personal computers and other stand-alone devices which have not been networked or have only been networked using conventional wired computer networks and conventional computer I/O devices such as printers.

There is not a suggestion in prior art that Bluetooth be used in more sophisticated commercial and industrial equipment having embedded controllers for controlling machine functions than are different from printing and keyboards which are the typical I/O functions of computers. The reason for this is that Bluetooth is a short range network. The conventional teaching for cash handling equipment is, as shown and described in the prior art, to use a wired network to handle equipment spread over larger areas. All of the items described in Office actions are consumer devices, and are not embedded controller commercial and industrial machines.

Claims 2-4, 15, 16 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being obvious over Amos in view of Watanabe.

It is noted that claims 3 and 18 included the limitation that said second cash handling device is electrically connected to a second network selected from a group consisting of: the Internet, an intranet, a LAN and a WAN.




CONCLUSION

In view of the Amendment and Remarks, reconsideration of the patent application is respectfully requested. After the amendment, claims 2-9 and 15-21 are now pending and a Notice of Allowance for these claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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